**THE THESIS STATEMENT**

What is a thesis statement?

* The thesis statement is one of the (if not *the*) most important parts of your paper.
* It is the basic argument that you intend to make and prove in the duration of your paper. It is a road map for the paper—it tells the reader what to expect from the rest of the paper.
* It should be specific—it should cover only what you will discuss in your paper and should be supported with specific evidence.
* Your topic may change as you write, so you may need to revise your thesis statement to reflect exactly what you have discussed in the paper.

What is the structure of a thesis statement?

* Your thesis statement should include 3 parts: WHAT, WHY, HOW.
* WHAT: What claim are you making about the topic?
* WHY: Why should we care? Why is your claim important? Your thesis should answer the “so what?” question.
* HOW: What evidence are you going to show for your claim?

Where do I put the thesis statement?

* It should be the last sentence of the Introduction Paragraph of your paper.

Examples: Bad/Better/Best

* Punk rock music is fun. (BAD) Why:
* Punk rock music helped shape an attitude of rebellion for young people over the last thirty years. (BETTER) Why:
* The influence punk rock music has had in shaping an attitude of rebellion for young people can best be illustrated by looking at its history, lyrics, and prevalence in pop culture. (BEST) Why:

Adapted from <http://204.193.8.79/Language%20Arts/Paynter/English%20I/PDFs/Thesis%20statement%20handout%20.pdf>